

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MBABAN 01362 171822Z

67

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-13 RSR-01 /123 W
----- 108971

R 171500Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5226

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUESJ

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MBABANE 1362

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, WZ

SUBJECT: SWAZILAND AFTER ABOLITION CONSTITUTION; SITREP

REF: MBABANE 1358

1. THREE MONTHS AFTER KING ABOLISHED CONSTITUTION, SWAZILAND BEING GOVERNED LARGELY BY FORMER MINISTERS WITH NEW LEGISLATION REGULARLY APPEARING AS ORDERS OF KING-IN-COUNCIL. PRESIDENT FOR LIFE OF NOW-BANNED OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTY, NGWANE NATIONAL LIBERATORY CONGRESS (NNLC), AMBROSE ZWANE AGAIN DETAINED JULY 14 FOR FURTHER 60-DAY PERIOD FOR UNDISCLOSED POLITICAL ACTIVITIES PROBABLY INTERVIEWS WITH S. A. PRESSMEN. THOMAS NGWENYA ALSO UNDER ARREST FOR ILLEGAL ENTRY FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND SHOULD BE CHARGED WITHIN 14 DAYS. ONE OTHER NNLC ADHERENT AFRICA MHLANGA KNOWN DETAINED.

2. CIVIL SERVICE CURRENTLY UNDERGOING SHAKEUP WITH SOME
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MBABAN 01362 171822Z

15 OFFICIALS ALREADY NOTIFIED OF MANDATORY RETIREMENT AND AT

LEAST TEN OTHERS RUMORED VULNERABLE. PROMINENT PERSONALITIES IN LATTER CATEGORY INCLUDE ARTHUR KHOZA, PERMSEC JUSTICE, JAMES MATSEBULA, HIS MAJESTY'S PRIVATE SECRETARY, AND SHAKRAK SIBANYONI, PERMSEC COMMERCE AND COOPERATIVES. SOME INDIVIDUALS BEING TERMINATED BECAUSE OF INCOMPETENCE, E. G. CHRISTOPHER DLAMINI AND SIBANYONI. HOWEVER, IT APPEARS MOST LEAVING BECAUSE OF COMBINATION SUSPICIOUS ABOUT POLITICAL SYMPATHIES AND LONGSTANDING PERSONAL ANIMOSITIES, E. G. DAVID SIBANDZ DISLIKED BY PRINCE MFANASIBILI BECAUSE OF ACTIVITIES WITH SOCCER FEDERATION. THERE IS CONCURRENT CRACKDOWN ON CIVIL SERVICE BY MINISTERS TO STOP ABSENTEEISM AND IMPROVE PUNCTUALITY.

3. POLICE EXPECT BE SIMILARLY AFFECTED BY TERMINATIONS WITH RUMOR SOME 50 OFFICERS ALL RANKS VULNERABLE. POLICE COMMISSIONER MTHETHWA ONCE CENTER OF SPECULATION AS DESIGNATE TO HEAD BOTH POLICE FORCE AND ARMY NOW APPARENTLY IN SOME DISFAVOR AND PRINCE BEKHIMPI DLAMINI AGAIN FRONT-RUNNER TO HEAD ARMY.

4. ARMY CONTINUES TRAIN ON RELAXED SCHEDULE UNDER WORLD WAR II VETERANS AND EXPARTIATE POLICE OFFICERS. ARMY NOW AT STAGE OF FIRING MODERN WEAPONS ON RANGE. SOME MINISTERS, E. G. S. S. NXUMALO AND MASITSELA, AWARDED INFLATED RANKS MAJOR GENERAL. WHETHER HONORARY REMAINS TO BE SEEN. MANY HIGH-RANKING CIVIL SERVANTS INCLUDING MINISTER STATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS STEPHEN MATSEBULA HAVE VOLUNTEERED FOR WEEKEND NATIONAL GUARD TYPE TRAINING WITH ARMY. "MILITARIZATION" MAY BE ASCRIBED IN PART TO APPARENT GROWING CONCERN OF KING SOBUZA ABOUT HIS OWN SAFETY. EMBASSY INFORMED NEW PALACE BUDGETED AT R800,000 TWO YEARS AGO NOW BEING DESIGNED AS FORTRESS WITH COST TRIPLED.

5. INVESTMENT PARTICULARLY IN TOURISM APPEARS UNCHECKED. HOLIDAY INN PROCEEDING WITH CONSTRUCTION SECOND FACILITY AND VERY PRELIMINARY PLANS ANNOUNCED WEEK JULY 8 FOR RACE AND DOG TRACKS AFJACENT.

6. THERE IS NO RPT NO DISCERNIBLE PROGRESS TOWARD A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MBABAN 01362 171822Z

NEW CONSTITUTION. LIST OF COMMISSIONERS PROPOSED BY MINISTRY JUSTICE REPORTEDLY BEFORE KING SEVERAL WEEKS AGO BUT NO SELECTIONS YET MADE. VIEWS ARTHUR KHOZA AND JAMES MATSEBULA THAT CONSTITUTION SHOULD MOVE FORWARD MAY BE PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR DIFFICULTIES.

7. DESPITE ALL FOREGOING, COUNTRY IS CALM WEEK BEFORE NGWENYAMA'S BIRTHDAY. THERE NO SECURITY PROBLEMS EVEN IN RELATIVELY VOLATILE SUGAR AREAS AND THERE VERY LITTLE

VOCALIZATION OF SWAZI GRIEVANCES TO RESIDENT DIPLOMATS OR EXPATRIATE BUSINESSMEN. IT OBVIOUS, HOWEVER, THAT MEASURES AFFECTING PROMINENT CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE PROFOUNDLY AFFECTED OTHERS.

8. COMMENT: IT DIFFICULT DETERMINE REAL REASONS FOR CURRENT DIRECTION SWAZI DOMESTIC POLITICAL POLICY. TO WESTERNERS, THERE SEEM BE NO LOGIC IN RENEWED HARRASSMENT AMBROSE ZWANE OR MARTYRIZATION THOMAS NGWENYA. TO WESTERNERS, ZWANE IS INEFFECTUAL, ALMOST PATHETIC AS SYMBOL OF OPPOSITION. HE DOES, HOWEVER, GET SYMPATHETIC COVERAGE OF HIS PRONOUNCEMENTS IN S. A. AND TANZANIAN PRESS. WHAT IS MORE DISTRUBING FOR WESTERNERS IN LONG RUN IS POSSIBILITY THAT RECENT EVENTS REPRESENT REACTIONARY TREND TOWARD "DLAMINIZATION" AND FURTHER ASCENDANCY TRADITIONAL TRIBAL AND CLAN LEADERS. IT CLEAR FROM PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORTS FOLLOWING APRIL 12 TAKE OVER THAT MODERN SECTOR WAS QUITE INFLUENTIAL. INDEED SOME VESTIGES OF THIS REMAIN IN STATEMENTS PRIME MINISTER WHICH FOLLOW DIRECTIONS OF SECOND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN. HOWEVER, IT ALSO CLEAR THAT PRIME MINISTER HAS LOST AUTHORITY AND THAT LEADERSHIP DIFFUSED THROUGHOUT VARIOUS MINISTRIES. ONE CONSEQUENCE, CURRENT ACTIVITIES COULD WELL BE CREATION OF EFFECTIVE, EVEN COVERT OPPOSITION WHERE NONE EXISTED BEFORE.
SPICER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MBABAN01362
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MBABANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730729/aaaaauiyw.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 MBABANE 1358
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <01-Feb-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWAZILAND AFTER ABOLITION CONSTITUTION; SITREP
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, WZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005